

Serial No. 10/670,502

Attorney Docket No. 26A-010

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REMARKS

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate the initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 filed on 21 November 2006.

Claims 21-23 and 25-35 are pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 21-23 and 26-35 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,628,944, Nagasaka et al. ("Nagasaka"). Claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,768,232, Farber ("Farber"). By way of the above amendment, the independent claims are amended. Support for the amendment is located in the original application, for example, original claims 1, 5, 16 and 17. Insofar as the rejection can be applied to the claims as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed for reasons including the following, which are provided by way of example.

Independent claim 21 recites in combination, for example, the releasing agent layer being "composed of" a releasing agent. This recitation clearly defines that the releasing agent layer includes only the releasing agent and does not include any other chemical components. Moreover, claim 21 further recites a first liquid "consisting of" the releasing agent and a solvent. This recitation clearly defines that the first liquid includes only the releasing agent and the solvent and does not include any other chemical component. (See also claim 29, 34.)

Moreover, claim 21 further recites that the "forming the molded portion by supplying a molding material..." is performed after the forming of the releasing agent layer. This recitation clearly defines that the releasing agent layer does not include any chemical components other than the releasing agent as recited, and that the releasing agent layer is formed on the mold cavity prior to supplying the molding material into the closed cavity. (See also claim 29, 34.)

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The office action asserts that Nagasaka anticipates the invention as claimed. To the contrary, Nagasaka fails to set forth each and every element found in the claims as amended.

Nagasaka fails to teach or suggest injecting of a first liquid consisting of a releasing agent and a solvent. (Claims 21, 29, 34.) To the contrary, Nagasaka discusses injecting a mixture of a mold release agent and a surface forming RIM polyurethane material. (E.g., Col. 7, lines 32-47.)

The method of Nagasaka forms a surface layer in which the surface forming RIM polyurethane material and the mold release agent are mixed. Therefore, Nagasaka does not teach or suggest injection of the first liquid, where the first liquid does not include any chemical components other than a releasing agent and a solvent.

Furthermore, Nagasaka fails to teach or suggest the injecting of the first liquid consisting of a releasing agent and a solvent into a closed mold cavity, prior to supplying a molding material into the closed mold cavity. (Claims 21, 29, 34.) To the contrary, Nagasaka discusses injecting of a mixture of the mold release agent and the surface forming RIM polyurethane material. In other words, in a method according to Nagasaka, the mold release agent and the surface forming RIM polyurethane material are simultaneously injected. This is the opposite of claim 21.

Nagasaka fails to teach or suggest, for example, these elements recited in independent claims 21, 29 and 34 as listed in the above amendment. The other references of record fail to remedy these deficiencies of Nagasaka. It is respectfully submitted therefore that claims 21, 29 and 34 as amended are patentable over Nagasaka.

For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claims 21, 29, and 34, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. In addition, Nagasaka clearly fails to show other recited elements as well.

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With respect to the rejected dependent claims, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 21, 29, and 34, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

The applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. The applicants do not concede that the cited prior art shows any of the elements recited in the claims. However, the applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

The applicants strongly emphasize that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples applicants have described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, applicants have provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

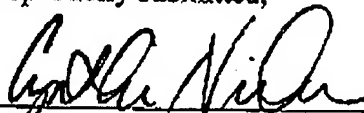
In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

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If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia K. Nicholson
Reg. No. 36,880

Posz Law Group, PLC
12040 South Lakes Drive, Suite 101
Reston, VA 20191
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400